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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 ANKARA 001643

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR EUR/SE (GARBE)

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/12/2018

TAGS: **PGOV SCUL TU**

SUBJECT: TURKEY: CHARITY FUND SCANDAL PROMPTS PM ERDOGAN

BATTLE WITH PRESS TYCOON

REF: ANKARA 1626

Classified By: POL Counselor Daniel O'Grady, reasons 1.4 (b,d)

**¶1.** (C) SUMMARY. A very public and ugly battle has erupted between Prime Minister Erdogan and the Dogan Group. The conflict dominated the news

It Only Took A Spark

**¶2.** (SBU) On September 1 the first court case against Deniz Feneri convened in the Frankfurt Regional Court. By September 5, German Prosecutor

**¶3.** (U) In response, Erdogan publicly charged Dogan with corruption regarding a zoning application for new residences at the Istanbul Hilton. I  
Tango with Turkey's Rupert Murdoch

**¶4.** (C) Dogan Media Holdings owns several mainstream daily newspapers and three major television stations. Although relations between Erdogan &  
Erdogan Spokesman on the Media: Feed the Beast or Else

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**¶5.** (C) PM Spokesman Akif Beki contends, "It's a media habit. They want something; they don't get it, so they attack." He defended RTUK's refus

**¶6.** (SBU) Last fall the editorial stance noticeably shifted at Dogan's flagship newspaper, Hurriyet. The paper became more critical of the gove  
Comment

**¶7.** (C) This battle could be seen as just a very direct and personal fight between two titans. However, coming on the heels of other recent acc

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